



LEEC

LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION COMMISSION

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A Weekly Compilation of Environmental Education News from Across Louisiana

LEEC NEWS

Louisiana's 11th Environmental Awareness

Student Art & Language Arts Contest

Theme

*Louisiana's Natural Resources:
What's Important to You?"*

**All submissions must be postmarked by:
FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2013**

Entry Categories

- Group 1:** Contestant ages 5-7
- Group 2:** Contestant ages 8-10
- Group 3:** Contestant ages 11-13
- Group 4:** Contestant ages 14-18

Prizes awarded in each category:

- First Place:** \$200
- Second Place:** \$100
- Third Place:** \$75



SPONSORED BY:

Winners only will be notified via e-mail no later than Wednesday, May 15th. The list of winners for all categories will be posted on the LEEC [website](#). All winners will be honored at a reception to be held at the Governor's Mansion in June.

Winning entries will be published in our 2014 calendar!

The **official entry form and release**, including full contest details and guidelines, can be downloaded from our [website](#). The entry form **MUST** accompany the entry and **MUST** be signed by the contestant and parent or guardian. Entries that do not comply with contest rules will be disqualified. For more information, contact Juliet Raffray, jraffray@wlf.la.gov.

GRANTS

NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants

Application deadline: June 1, 2013

The NEA Foundation provides grants of \$2,000 and \$5,000 to educators for proposals that engage students in critical thinking and problem-solving that deepens their knowledge of standards-based subject matter. [Click here](#) for more information on this grant or the [Grants](#) page on the Classroom Earth website.

EVENTS

Louisiana Women in the Wild: Fishing Basics

April 13, 2013 9:00 a.m-5:00 p.m.

The class is free and designed to teach women the basics of fishing. Course includes fish ID, rigging, casting, fish cleaning, boat safety, trailering a boat, and more! Class taught by LDWF biologist and hosted by Cabela's in Gonzales. Space is limited to 35 women with little to no experience in fishing. First come, first serve. To register, email: victoria.waite@cabelas.com.

EVENTS, CONTINUED

Celebrate the Gulf Marine Education Festival

Saturday, April 6, 2013, 10 AM*-3 PM

War Memorial Park, Pass Christian, MS

Prizes will be awarded to the schools that send the most students! Free, family fun for Everyone! Visit over 25 exhibits that highlight the benefits of a healthy Gulf of Mexico. Plus, don't miss: Touch Tanks Live Animals, Raptor Road, Show/Birds of Prey, Turtle Hurdle and the Youth Fishing Rodeo* which will take place between 8:00 AM and 10 AM. For more information contact: Mississippi Department of Marine Resources at 228.374.5000. Check out *Celebrate* on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/events/114316302094378/>

EE Week 2013 Photo Contest!

Do you have a photo of how you and your organization are bringing environmental education to students? EE Week invites you to upload your photos, including those from digital cameras, camera phones and social media sites like Instagram to the EE Week Photo Contest. Your photo can depict activities either inside or outside the classroom, before, during or after EE Week. The [EE Week Photo Contest](#) runs from **April 1-May 31, 2013** and is open to all legal United States residents who are affiliated with an organization that provides K-12 educational programs, are 18 years of age and older and have a valid e-mail account. Prizes include a Samsung Galaxy Note® 10.1 (Wi-Fi), 16GB, a 14.2 Megapixel Samsung SMART Camera and a Dual-View Smart Camera with Built-In Wi-Fi. [See the complete contest rules.](#)

NSTA's 2013 National Conference

Educators who attend NSTA's National Conference in San Antonio, TX on **April 11-14, 2013**, will have access to rigorous content, hands-on workshops, new products and technologies, nationally-known speakers and a network of peers. The conference provides a venue to talk about Common Core, best practices, NGSS, Crosscutting Concepts, STEM, and assessment strategies, among others. [Click here](#) for more information.

Basics of the Basin 2013 Addressing the Condition of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin—Call for Papers

The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation will host the 11th Basics of the Basin meeting on October 24-26, 2013 at the Lindy Boggs Conference Center, University of New Orleans Research and Technology Park in New Orleans, LA. LPBF is announcing a call for research papers to be presented at the conference, in the form of a presentation or poster. To qualify, the research must have been conducted in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin (east bank of the Mississippi River from the Mississippi/Louisiana boarder to the Bird's Foot Delta), or strongly relevant to the Lake Pontchartrain Basin. The following list of topics includes, but is not limited to, areas of interest for paper submissions: Sea level rise/Climate change; BP oil spill; State Master Plan; Diversions including legacy, impacts to species, invasive species; Mississippi River hydrostudy; Hurricane Isaac; Flood protection system; Carbon sequestration; Hypoxia/Dead zone/Water Quality; Wetland wastewater assimilation; MRGO; Community engagement in science; Central Wetlands; Environmental policy. Submissions should be 3-5 pages with figures to be included in the proceedings upon acceptance. Please send submissions as either a word or PDF file, and indicate whether the submission is intended as a poster or presentation, to Theryn Henkel, therynhenkel@gmail.com. **Submission Deadline: July 19, 2013**

Scientific and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (SciTEK) Participatory Mapping Project Presentations

The University of New Orleans Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences (PIES) and Center for Hazard Assessment and Response Technology (CHART), funded by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, have been working with TEK Experts from the Barataria Basin and CWPRA resource agency staff over the past 2 years to create a methodology to incorporate local resource users' knowledge into the coastal restoration decision-making process, utilizing mapping and modeling. They are nearing the end of the project and would like to invite you to attend a presentation on the results of the project. The presentations will include information on the completed method; priorities identified through the process; potential uses of the data and other products; and potential applications of the technique to inform planning, implementation, and operations decisions. Each presentation will be followed by time for Q&A and discussion. The New Orleans meeting will include an informal reception to meet the study participants. The Baton Rouge presentation will include an informal workshop for those interested in learning more details about the technique and how they may apply it to their own issues.

April 10, 2013 - New Orleans—1:00-3:30pm

Lindy C. Boggs International Conference Center, UNO, 2045 Lakeshore Drive, Room 257

April 11, 2013 - Baton Rouge—1:00-3:30pm

State Library of Louisiana, Seminar Room, 701 North 4th Street

Please RSVP to Joyce Douglas at jbdougla@uno.edu or (504) 280-5760 if you will be attending either presentation.

WEBINARS

The Importance of Place in Climate Change Education

Thursday, April 25, 2013, 5:30-7:30 p.m. (EDT)

Place is an important tool when teaching climate change, and connecting the two makes the climate change immediately relevant and personal. Presenter Kristen Iverson Poppleton will speak broadly on place-based education and climate change. She will provide specific examples of how the Will Steger Foundation connects Minnesota educators and their students with Minnesota as their place, makes them aware of how climate change is impacting them, and helps them develop ways they can implement solutions in their schools and communities.

Green Teacher's Live webinars are free to all, and are available for free in our webinar archive for 30 days after each event. Subscribers to our magazine get access to our collection of over 30 past webinars from the past two years. Visit www.greenteacher.com for more information.

OneNOAA Science Seminars

All seminars are open to the public (unless otherwise indicated) and offer limited remote access on a first come first served basis. Please check the [OneNOAA Science Seminars](#) web page for the most updated seminar information or contact Hernan Garcia, Hernan.Garcia@noaa.gov.

[High Resolution and Regional Modeling](#)—April 09, 2013, 13:00-14:30 EST; NOAA HQ [SSMC-3](#) 12th Floor Fishbowl

[From Design to Action: Key Elements and Innovations for Effective Marine Protected Area Network Implementation](#)

April 10, 2013; 12:00-13:00 EST ; NOAA HQ [SSMC-4](#) Room 8150

[Update on the Developments of Aerosol and Gas Chemistry Processes Inlined Within the NMMB Multiscale Model at the Barcelona Supercomputing Center](#) [new]

April 10, 2013; 12:00-13:00 EST; NOAA NCWCP Room 2155 (College Park, MD)

[Multiphase Organic Photochemistry in the Atmosphere](#) [new]

April 10, 2013; 15:30-16:30 MST; NOAA ESRL CSD seminar room (2A305), David Skaggs Research Center (Boulder, CO)

[The Use of Coral Physiology to Combine Satellite SST and Insolation to Track Daily Coral Health](#) [new]

April 10, 2013; 13:15-14:00 EST; NOAA CWCP 4th Floor, Large Conference Room 4552-4553 (College Park, MD)

[WWII Offshore: Monitor National Marine Sanctuary's Battle of the Atlantic Expedition](#)

April 11, 2013; 13:00-14:00 EST; Remote Access Only

[Transgenerational Genetic Mark Recapture: A New Tool in the Toolbox for Estimating Salmonid Abundance?](#)

April 11, 2013; 11:00-12:00 PST; NOAA [NWFSC Auditorium](#) (Seattle, WA 98112)

[Communicating Climate in a Time of Rapid Change](#)—April 16, 2013; 12:00-12:30 EST; Online Access Only

[Downscaled Snow Projections for Alaska](#)—April 16, 2013; 10:00-11:00 Alaska Time; Online Access Only

[Is Sea Level Rise Accelerating? Somewhere a Hockey Stick](#)

April 17, 2013; 12:00-13:00 EST; NOAA HQ [SSMC-4](#) Room 8150

[Using Satellite Data to Improve Operational Air Quality Forecasting Capabilities](#)

April 17, 2013; 14:00-15:00 EST; Auditorium, NOAA CWCP (College Park, MD)

[Changes Over Time in the Size and Age of Chinook Salmon Caught in Lower Columbia River Fisheries](#)

April 18, 2013; 11:00-12:00 PST; NOAA [NWFSC Auditorium](#) (Seattle, WA 98112)

[Data Assimilation Progress and Plans at ECMWF](#) [new]

April 19, 2013; 14:00-15:00 EST; NOAA CWCP Conference Center (College Park, MD)

[The Spatial Economics Toolbox for Fisheries \(FishSET\): A New Tool to Improve Fisheries Management](#)

April 25, 2013; 11:00-12:00 PST; NOAA [NWFSC Auditorium](#) (Seattle, WA 98112)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers Needed to Help Plant Marsh Grass at Lafitte

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, Ducks Unlimited and ConocoPhillips invite volunteers to participate in a restoration project at a marsh creation site near Lafitte, LA on **Wednesday April 17, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.** Volunteers are needed to plant 7,000 marsh plants which will assist in stabilizing the marsh soils in the hopes of preventing future erosion. In addition, the project will also create wildlife habitat, increase species diversity and provide a seed source for natural regeneration. This is a VERY dirty and strenuous activity so physical fitness is required. Volunteers will meet at the C&M Marina and be transported by airboat to the planting site. Minimum age for volunteers is 13, but all minors must be accompanied by an adult. All equipment (shovels, gloves, etc.) will be provided. Lunch and drinks will be provided to all volunteers. All volunteers are requested to [register here](#) or call the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana at 1-(888)-LACOAST for more information.

WORKSHOPS

Wetland Rapid Assessment Procedure: A Two -Day Workshop

May 14-15, 2013, 8:00 am-4:00 pm, 11300 US 98, between Fairhope and Foley, Alabama

Learn about WRAP and apply the procedure in the field. Lectures will include functional variables, functional scoring procedures and applying procedures in the field and in the office. See the attached flyer for course information and registration. Space is limited so register early. For more information, contact Mike Shelton at (251) 928-9792 or Michael.Shelton@dcnr.alabama.gov.

Summer Teacher Coastal Stewardship Program

The Florida A&M University Summer Teacher Coastal Stewardship Program provides K-12 science teachers with the skills, materials and knowledge to foster conservation and stewardship of the Gulf of Mexico and its resources. The aim of the program is to cultivate an awareness of and appreciation for the diversity of the coastal communities, which teachers can share with and instill in their students. Through funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), teachers will participate in a two-week "road trip" along the Gulf of Mexico, beginning at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, FL and concludes in New Orleans, LA. At each stop, participants will engage in hands-on field experiences and interactive lecture/laboratory activities.

Program Highlights: Learn about the ecological and economic diversity of the Gulf of Mexico; engage in dialogue with scientist and natural resource professionals; receive training on use on GLOBE protocols, Teachers on the Estuary (TOTE), Project WET, data collection and analysis; develop standards-based, inquiry-based lesson plans for online use; participate in a fun and adventurous professional development opportunity; receive a stipend and continuing education credits

Field Trip Destinations (tentative): Journey of Water to Wakulla Springs, Leon County Sinks, Wakulla Springs, Gulf Specimen Marine Lab, Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Lab, Institute for Marine Mammal Studies, Coastal Education and Research Facility at Lake Pontchartrain, Audubon Aquarium of the Americas

If you would like to participate in this program, please submit the attached application to kimberly.davis@fam.edu or call (850)412-6515 if you have any questions. **Application deadline is April 12, 2013.**

RESOURCES

New Gulf Alliance Tool Helps Ensure Healthy Beaches and Safe Seafood

Residents along the Gulf of Mexico have been concerned about the quality of their swimming and fishing waters for years. The Gulf of Mexico Alliance has taken a step closer to improving the methods used in water quality testing. A new **Molecular Marker Registry** has been developed that is based on genetic information from microbes. This modern, ground-breaking tool is just one of the many water quality tools designed by the Gulf of Mexico Alliance to help ensure healthy beaches, wetland habitat, and safe seafood in Gulf coastal areas. www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org/issues/water_quality.php.

Scruffles the Mouse Teaches IPM

Orange County Public Schools, in conjunction with Orlando Tech Animation, created several video "shorts" on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) topics. The videos, which feature a cute animated mouse named Scruffles, run from one to two minutes long and include [IPM basics](#), [bed bugs](#), [head lice](#), [ants](#), [rodents](#) and [cockroaches](#). IPM is a prevention-based, highly effective approach proven to reduce pest complaints and pesticide use by up to 90% in schools and other public buildings. IPM practices such as sanitation and exclusion also improve food safety, fire safety and energy conservation. School IPM 2015's newsletter highlights real-life examples of IPM in practice and can help you start an IPM program in your school district: www.schoolipm2015.com.



Infographic: Tech & Our Planet

Research indicates that 77% of teachers believe using technology in the classroom increases student's motivation to learn, while 75% of 1,900 surveyed educators said students who spend regular time outdoors tend to be more creative and better problem-solvers. View this new infographic [Tech & Our Planet](#) provided by Classroom Earth for more stats.

Using Technology to Connect Students & the Environment Educator Toolkit

NEEF, with support from Toshiba America Information Systems, Inc., and in partnership with Project Noah, present *Using Tech to Connect Students & the Environment*, a video on how technology can further STEM learning through the environment, both in nature and in the classroom. [Watch the video](#). The free Educator Toolkit for *Using Technology to Connect Students & the Environment* is a companion to the video and includes activities and resources at all grade levels for implementing a project similar to the one featured in the video. [Download the toolkit](#).

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Keep Louisiana Beautiful E-Card Contest

KLB wants to see your witty sense of humor and graphic art skills. Enter the contest, and you just might see your work on a billboard in your local area! All forms of designs, from hand drawn to digital artwork are accepted. [Click here](#) for the guidelines and restrictions. **Deadline is April 14th.** Please consider entering and also sharing this information with your friends and family through your own social media networks. Don't miss the chance to have your work on display for all the world to see!

Space Weather Research with High School Students

The Center for Geospace Studies are scientists working on ionospheric and space weather studies at SRI International in Menlo Park, CA. They have an opportunity to give high school students hands on experience in space weather research and work on developing a network of all-sky cameras to observe low-latitude aurora and other space weather phenomena. Lesson plans explain the engineering, physics, chemistry and earth science related to space weather research based on the NRC framework for Next Generation Science Standards. Resources and guidance related to STEM careers in their field are also provided. This entire program will be implemented by two scientists directly installing the instruments and working with teachers to develop curriculum resources. For more information, contact Dr. Asti Bhatt at asti.bhatt@sri.com or 650-859-3424 or visit their [website](#).

Some space weather resources: <http://spaceweather.com>; <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/SWN/index.html>; <http://www.haystack.mit.edu/edu/poa/swfx/index.html>

LAGNIAPPE

“Sustainability in the Air” Project Commercial

Enjoy this [commercial](#) produced by one of the 2012 LEEC Sustainability grant winners about the hand-dryers that were recently installed in their school in Russellville, AR. The students had a great time in the process!

EPA Survey Finds More Than Half of the Nation's River and Stream Miles in Poor Condition

EPA recently released the results of the first comprehensive survey looking at the health of thousands of stream and river miles across the country, finding that 55% are in poor condition for aquatic life. The 2008-2009 National Rivers and Stream Assessment reflects the most recent data available, and is part of EPA's expanded effort to monitor waterways in the U.S. and gather scientific data on the condition of the Nation's water resources. [Click here](#) to access the report.

CRCL Summarizes the Recently Released NOAA-coordinated Report: *Mississippi River Freshwater Diversions in Southern Louisiana: Effects on Wetland Vegetation, Soils, and Elevation*

The importance of the Mississippi River to our coast can be seen in the shape of Louisiana itself. The river built southeast Louisiana through centuries of moving freshwater and sediment to the coast. Now, seeking to address decades of coastal land loss, state authorities hope to harness the Mississippi River's land-building power in the form of diversions, a centerpiece of Louisiana's coastal restoration strategy. Is it possible to predict how these diversions will work from the performance of freshwater diversions that already exist along the lower Mississippi River? A recent NOAA-led scientific panel of marsh restoration experts published a report on the effects of these freshwater diversions. [Click here](#) to read CRCL's summary of that report.

NOAA Information Exchange for Marine Educators - April 2013

Please see the attached document for details of resources, programs, and opportunities compiled from different sources, including EE-NEWS@NAAEE, scuttlebutt, EEinGEORGIA, the Scout Report, and others.

Find out about wetland outreach activities including symposiums, conferences, meetings, educational opportunities, volunteer opportunities, & related support material at the **Louisiana Unified Coastal Community Calendar** at <http://lacoast.gov/calendar/>

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